

Temperature control, fire alarm repairs set for Lincoln prison

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LINCOLN — The temperature control and fire alarm system in 13 buildings at the Lincoln Correctional Center will be replaced as part of an \$838,000 renovation project.

"This construction project will address life-safety issues at this critical Department of Corrections facility," Gov. Pat Quinn said Thursday in a prepared statement. "It will also employ a number of construction workers, which will help the local economy as well."

The ventilation work will be done by Environmental Control Solutions Inc. of Springfield, the lower of two bidders at \$400,000. The electrical work will be performed for \$438,195 by Ruyle Mechanical Services Inc. of Peoria, the lowest of five bidders.

The project will be managed by the Illinois Capital Development Board. No start date has been scheduled, DOC spokesman Tom Shaer said.

The agency prefers to use local workers whenever possible on such projects to stimulate the local economy, he added.

"Director (S.A. "Tony") Godinez recognizes the local impact of each correctional center," Shaer said, referring to the head of DOC. "We think the job of DOC isn't just to incarcerate and rehabilitate, it's to be a good member of the community."

Shaer said the work is part of a list of planned upgrades at the minimum-security facility, which opened in September 1984 and has a current population of 908 men.

The facility was switched from a female prison to a male prison following the closure of the Dwight Correctional Center in March.